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For Immediate Release

ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT ATTORNEY AND UNITED STATES ATTORNEY REPORT WEEKLY RESULTS OF ST. LOUIS REGIONAL CEASEFIRE INITIATIVE

St. Louis, Missouri: The following represents the prosecution activities under the St. Louis Regional Ceasefire Initiative, a component of the Bush Administration's Project Safe Neighborhoods Program, United States Attorney James G. Martin and St. Louis Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce announced today.

These cases are the result of the collaborative efforts of federal and local law enforcement including the U.S. Attorney's Office, the St. Louis City Circuit Attorney's Office, the St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the U.S. Marshal's Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and the St. Louis County Police Department.

This week's results of Project Safe Neighborhood/Ceasefire are as follows:

ST. LOUIS CIRCUIT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

AVERY WILLIAMS, 19, of the 4000 block of Mcree was found guilty by jury on April 28, 2005 of five counts of robbery first degree and five counts of armed criminal action. Williams' jury recommended sentences of fifteen years on each robbery charge and twenty five years on each armed criminal action charge. Williams faces a sentence of up to two hundred years incarceration when he is sentenced by Judge Timothy Wilson on June 9, 2005.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

MERWIN SMITH, 27, of the 4800 block of Farlin, St. Louis, 63115, was sentenced to 80

months in prison on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

DESHAWN TYRONE DEMEYERS, 24, of the 2100 block of Russell, St. Louis, 63104, was sentenced to 33 months in prison on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

CHARLES MERRIDITH, 62, of the 1800 block of Laflin, St. Louis, was sentenced to 160 months in prison on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

KERWIN POKE, 41, of the 10300 block of Monarch, St. Louis, 63136, pleaded guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Poke now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing has been set for August 18, 2005.

REGINALD CARTEZ HALL, 20, of the 1200 block of Gamblin, St. Louis, 63147, pleaded guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Hall now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing has been set for August 8, 2005.

KENNETH L. THOMPSON, 45, of the 3200 block of Itaska, St. Louis, 63116, pleaded guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Thompson now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing has been set for July 29, 2005.

JOHN PARSON, 48, of the 3100 block of Texas, St. Louis, pleaded guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm and one felony count of making a false statement in an application for a U.S. passport. Parson now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000, per count. Sentencing has been set for August 2, 2005.

SAMUEL D. BROWN, 45, of the 5300 block of Terry, St. Louis, was indicted by a federal grand jury on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm and one felony count of being a felon in possession of ammunition. If convicted, Brown faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000.

The charges set forth in an indictment are merely accusations, and each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.